

United States Bankruptcy Court
Northern District of Illinois

In re Edward Henry Rensi

Debtor(s)

Case No.

Chapter 11

DISCLOSURE OF COMPENSATION OF ATTORNEY FOR DEBTOR(S)

1. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 329(a) and Bankruptcy Rule 2016(b), I certify that I am the attorney for the above-named debtor and that compensation paid to me within one year before the filing of the petition in bankruptcy, or agreed to be paid to me, for services rendered or to be rendered on behalf of the debtor(s) in contemplation of or in connection with the bankruptcy case is as follows:

For legal services, I have agreed to accept	\$	<u>\$425.00/hr</u>
Prior to the filing of this statement I have received	\$	<u>30,110.00</u>
Balance Due	\$	<u>\$425.00/hr</u>

2. \$ 1,717.00 of the filing fee has been paid.

3. The source of the compensation paid to me was:

☒ Debtor ☐ Other (specify):

4. The source of compensation to be paid to me is:

☒ Debtor ☐ Other (specify):

5. ☒ I have not agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with any other person unless they are members and associates of my law firm.

☐ I have agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with a person or persons who are not members or associates of my law firm. A copy of the agreement, together with a list of the names of the people sharing in the compensation is attached.

6. In return for the above-disclosed fee, I have agreed to render legal service for all aspects of the bankruptcy case, including:

- a. Analysis of the debtor's financial situation, and rendering advice to the debtor in determining whether to file a petition in bankruptcy;
- b. Preparation and filing of any petition, schedules, statement of affairs and plan which may be required;
- c. Representation of the debtor at the meeting of creditors and confirmation hearing, and any adjourned hearings thereof;
- d. [Other provisions as needed]

None

7. By agreement with the debtor(s), the above-disclosed fee does not include the following service:

None

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a complete statement of any agreement or arrangement for payment to me for representation of the debtor(s) in this bankruptcy proceeding.

Dated: October 27, 2015


Paul Bach
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Oak Brook, IL 60523
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SULAIMAN LAW GROUP, LTD.

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

Chapter 11 Retainer Agreement

Dated: August 11, 2015

Edward H. Rensi
6805 Hobson Valley Rd., #106
Woodridge, IL 60517

Re: *Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Representation*

Dear Mr. Rensi Rensi:

Sulaiman Law Group, Ltd. ("We" or the "Firm") is honored that you have selected us to represent you ("You" or "Client") as insolvency and bankruptcy counsel. Our objective is to provide high quality legal services to you at a fair and reasonable cost. This letter ("Agreement") outlines the basis upon which we will provide legal services to you, and confirms our understanding with respect to payment of legal fees, costs and expenses incurred with such representation. We apologize for the formality of this agreement, but we believe that it is important for you to have a clear understanding of our policies regarding legal fees and costs from the beginning of our relationship. Moreover, many of the provisions of this letter are required or recommended by the Illinois State Bar and the Illinois Rules of Professional Responsibility.

1. **Scope of Services; Client Duties.** You are hiring us as attorneys to represent you as bankruptcy counsel in a Chapter 11 case. We will keep you informed of the progress of your case and will be available to you to answer any questions you might have. If at any time you determine that you need to file a Chapter 7 bankruptcy case instead of your Chapter 11 case, the parties will need to execute a new fee agreement setting forth the terms of such representation. If you elect to convert your Chapter 11 case to a Chapter 7 case, then we shall be under no duty to prepare and file the necessary court papers until the new fee agreement has been signed and the agreed upon fees paid.

2. **Assumptions under this agreement.**

- a. You have provided all requested information.
- b. You have provided complete and accurate information.
- c. Your circumstances, especially your current monthly income (as defined by the Bankruptcy Code) does not substantially change prior to the filing of the case.
- d. You will provide all requested documents within 15 days of the date of this Agreement.

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3. **Retainer.** For us to begin our representation, you agree to forward a retainer in the total amount of \$31,827.00. The total \$31,827.00 of the retainer is due prior to the Chapter 11 being filed. These amounts include the \$1717.00 filing fee and \$110.00 in due diligence fees. This retainer will be deposited in our attorney business account but we may use these funds, up to the full \$31,827.00 to pay our fees and costs, subject to Court approval of any fees or costs incurred after your case is filed.

Under the 2007 Illinois Supreme Court case of Dowling v. Chicago Options Assoc., Inc. we are required to make certain disclosures to you about the retainer you would be paying pursuant to the above paragraph. The retainer is called an "Advanced Payment" Retainer. The Advance Payment Retainer means that the payments made by Client to Attorney are present payment to us in exchange for our commitment to provide legal services to you in the future. The fees paid by the Client will be deposited in our business account and not in our trust account. This means that we own the fees immediately upon payment. If our representation of Client ends before the retainer is exhausted, the retainer is subject to refund to you pursuant to the Illinois Rule of Professional Conduct.

Any unused portion of the retainer at the conclusion of our representation will be refunded to you or the party who advanced it.

4. **Legal Fees and Billing Practices.** Professional fees charged reflect a number of factors, including the number of attorney hours incurred, the relative experience of the attorney(s) performing the services, the difficulty of the matter, and the results obtained for the client. Our professional fees are determined by multiplying the actual number of hours incurred by the hourly billing rate. From time to time, our hourly billing rates will change. We will notify you of any changes in the firm's hourly rate structure. Our minimum billing unit is one-tenth of an hour, and services will be recorded and billed in tenths of an hour increments.

We will charge you for all activities undertaken in providing legal services to you under this Agreement, including but not limited to the following: conferences, including preparation and participation; preparation and review of correspondence, email and other documents; legal research and analysis; court and other appearances, including preparation and participation; and communications, including email, telephone, facsimile, in-person and other communications with you, other attorneys or persons involved with this matter, governmental agencies and any other party or person contact with whom is advisable for our representation. The legal personnel assigned to this matter may confer among themselves about the matter, as required. When they do confer, each will charge for the time expended. If more than one of our legal personnel attends a meeting, court hearing or other proceeding, each will charge for the time spent only if it is necessary in our judgment to have two or more personnel at the meeting, hearing or proceeding. We charge for waiting and portal-to-portal travel time, both local and out of town.



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Currently our hourly rates range from \$125.00 per hour for paralegals/legal assistants to \$450.00 for our most senior lawyers. You agree to pay our fees and costs based upon our then prevailing hourly rates and charges at the time the services are rendered.

You hereby authorize the secure destruction of your file seven years after it is closed, and agree that we shall have no liability for destroying any records, documents, or exhibits still in our possession at the end of five years. All future work for you in other matters will be handled in accordance with this Agreement at our regular hourly rates unless otherwise agreed upon.

5. Costs and Other Charges. We will incur various costs and expenses in the normal course of performing legal services under this Agreement. Costs and expenses commonly include filing and recordation fees, court reporters' fees, computer legal research, messenger and other delivery services, postage, parking and other local travel expenses, telecopying, photocopying and other reproduction costs. You agree to pay transportation, meals, lodging and all other costs of any necessary travel by our personnel. You will be charged the hourly rates for the time we spend traveling, both local and out of town. You also agree to pay for charges such as expert witness fees, title insurance fees, consultant and investigator fees, and the like. Photocopying is currently billed at \$0.05 per page, and motor travel at IRS standards. The Chapter 11 filing fee is \$1,717.00, which will be paid as part of the initial retainer. The firm reserves the right to require that certain costs, such as travel expenses, expert witness fees and deposition transcripts, be paid in advance directly by the client, or be paid into escrow before such costs are incurred.

You will have the additional cost of \$110.00 which includes the pre-filing credit counseling course, the mandatory post-filing educational course, credit reports and tax transcripts. The costs of any appraisals of real or personal property and any other costs are not included in this agreement.

6. Billing Statements. Once your case has been filed, we will file a motion in the Bankruptcy Court for approval of our fees for services based on time and expenses up until the date of filing the Motion. We will always send you a copy of this motion with a detailed itemization of all fees and costs incurred and the basis for the fees and costs.

Upon Court approval of these fees, we will send you an itemized statement indicating fees and costs incurred and their basis, any amounts applied from the retainer, and any current balance owed, as well as any deductions requested by the Court if any. This billing statement will list the professionals who worked on your matter for that billing period with their hourly billing rates.



Should you have any questions concerning any statement, we encourage you to discuss them with us prior to the Court date listed on the Motion for Fees so that we may have an opportunity to resolve any misunderstandings in a mutually agreeable manner.

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Any fees or costs due after application of your retainer, as determined by the Court and after approval of a fee application and notice to you, must be paid promptly.

Payment of fees and costs shall be made upon receipt of orders approving fees (or, after confirmation of your plan, upon receipt of invoices therefore), with payment received in our office no later than 5 days after the date of the order or invoice.

7. **Chapter 11 Filing.** The ultimate fees to be awarded the Firm for its representation of you in the Chapter 11 case must be approved by the Bankruptcy Court. Interim applications for compensation and reimbursement of expenses will be filed by the Firm with the Bankruptcy Court to obtain authorization for further payment. Generally, interim applications are made on a quarterly basis, but may be submitted more often. You agree to pay any award of compensation upon the entry of a Court order authorizing such award.

You agree that you shall perform fully and conscientiously all the duties of a Debtor and Debtor-in-Possession under the Bankruptcy Code, and shall timely comply with all reasonable requests for information or reports by the U.S. Trustee, any Creditor's Committee, and the Firm. These duties may include, but are not limited to, gathering and reviewing all of the information necessary for filing a complete and accurate list of all assets, creditors, budget, a schedule of executory contracts and unexpired leases, the Statement of Financial Affairs, and the Statement of Current Income and Expenses. You acknowledge having received a Questionnaire assisting the Firm in completing such documents, and agrees to timely, completely, and accurately complete the Questionnaire.

If during the course of the bankruptcy you wish to sell, refinance or pledge as security real property or any of your other assets, you must let us know so that we can ask the Court for approval. If you do not do this, the property or asset may not be able to be legally transferred, refinanced or pledged, which can cause significant problems both with the transaction and with your bankruptcy case. You must provide us with a copy of the listing agreement and/or contract for sale of the property before such document is signed by you.

Some debts, such as student loans, domestic support obligations (alimony, child support arrearages, etc.) and certain taxes, may not be dischargeable in your case. Liens, such as security interests, homeowner's liens and mortgages, may not be released upon your discharge, and you may need to make arrangements for the payment of such debts or surrender the property securing them after the conclusion of your case. Post-petition/pre-foreclosure homeowner's and condominium association charges are not discharged. You have been advised to close or draw down any financial account at an entity to which you owe or may owe money.

You authorize us to obtain information about your assets, credit (including credit reports), taxes, debts, income, expenses and other public and non-public information that may be used to verify and ensure the completeness of the information you provide to us. Such

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information may not be comprehensive or complete. It is obtained for background information and to aid our verification only. We will prepare your bankruptcy filings based upon information supplied by you. We will rely upon this information as being true, accurate, complete and correct. It is your responsibility to disclose your ownership or interest in and prior ownership or interest in all assets, regardless of value, and all debts and claims, regardless of amount. If a creditor is not listed, the debt to such creditor may not be discharged. If false, incorrect or incomplete information is included, or information is omitted, it can cause you additional effort and expense to remedy the error, may place the bankruptcy itself in jeopardy and could result in civil or criminal liability. It is vitally important that the information included in the bankruptcy schedules be complete and correct to avoid any problems. You will review all documents filed as part of your bankruptcy case, and your signature on those documents signifies that you have read and understood them, and agree with their contents. In cases of joint representation of spouses, communication with one spouse will be deemed communication with both spouses. We may disclose to both spouses any facts disclosed by either spouse.

You must preserve all records and documents related in any way to this matter, including all electronic documents and data.

After your case is filed, unless otherwise instructed by this office, you must pay all taxes incurred after the date of filing (and file all necessary tax returns), maintain any required insurance, file all required monthly reports, pay quarterly U.S. Trustee fees and any adequate protection payments, and make all payments called for under your plan, once confirmed. Failure to do so may result in dismissal or conversion of your bankruptcy or sale of your property.

If during the course of the bankruptcy you wish to sell, refinance or pledge as security real property or any of your other assets, you must let us know so that we can ask the Court for approval. If you do not do this, the property or asset may not be able to be legally transferred, refinanced or pledged, which can cause significant problems both with the transaction and with your bankruptcy case. You must provide us with a copy of the listing agreement and/or contract for sale of the property before such document is signed by you.

8. Discharge and Withdrawal. You may discharge us at any time and we may withdraw from your representation after approval by the Court. Reasons for our withdrawal may include, but are not limited to, your breach of this Agreement, your failure to pay our bills as they become due, your refusal to cooperate with us or follow our advice on a material matter, or any fact or circumstance that would render our continuing representation of you unlawful, unethical or impracticable.

Upon cessation of our active involvement in any particular matter, even if we continue to represent you in other matters, we will have no duty to inform you of future developments, deadlines or changes in the law.



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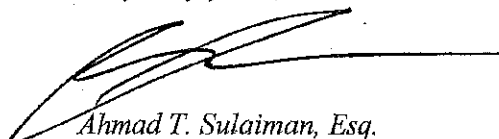
9. **Disclaimer of Guarantee; Risks.** Nothing in this Agreement should be construed as a promise or guarantee about the outcome of any matter that we are handling on your behalf. Our comments about the outcome of matters pertaining to you are expressions of opinion only. There are risks in filing for bankruptcy, including the possible liquidation or loss of property. You also understand that the bankruptcy law is subject to different interpretations and that there are inherent risks in how Courts will apply various provisions. In a Chapter 11 you cannot dismiss your case without prior Court approval, and the case can be converted to Chapter 7 without your approval. Since approval of a Chapter 11 plan requires the consent of creditors, no guarantees or representations are made as to whether such approval will or can be obtained.

10. **Entire Agreement.** This letter contains all of the terms of the agreement between us applicable to our representation and may not be modified except by a written agreement signed by both of us. There are no promises, terms, conditions or obligations applicable to our representation hereunder, except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, and the terms hereof supersede any previous oral or written agreements between us with respect to our representation hereunder.

11. **Effective Date.** Please confirm that this letter accurately reflects our agreement, and that you understand and waive any potential conflicts of interest, by signing the duplicate copy of this Agreement and returning it to us along with your retainer amount stated above. The representation covered by this Agreement commences only upon the receipt by this office of such items.

If you have any questions concerning the provisions of this Agreement, please do not hesitate to call me. We look forward to the privilege of working with you.

Very truly yours,



Ahmad T. Sulaiman, Esq.

UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED TO:



Edward H. Rensi

8-11-15
Date